

**CLAIMS:**

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method for authenticating LDAP referral searches, comprising:
- receiving a bind request from a LDAP referred search request;
  - searching the local directory for an entry
  - 10 corresponding to the distinguished name (DN) of the bind request;
  - authenticating the bind request if an entry for the bind DN is located within the local directory;
  - checking a defined reference server for the prefix
  - 15 of the bind DN, if the bind DN is not found within local directory;
  - contacting the reference server for authentication, if the prefix of the bind DN is located on the reference server; and
  - 20 denying the bind request if both the local directory and the reference server do not contain an entry corresponding to the bind DN.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the defined
- 25 reference server contains:
- root DN's; and
  - server location.
3. A computer program product in a computer readable
- 30 medium for use in a data processing system, for authenticating LDAP referral searches, the computer

program product comprising:

instructions for receiving a bind request from a  
LDAP referred search request;

5 instructions for searching the local directory for  
an entry corresponding to the distinguished name (DN) of  
the bind request;

instructions for authenticating the bind request if  
an entry for the bind DN is located within the local  
directory;

10 instructions for checking a defined reference server  
for the prefix of the bind DN, if the bind DN is not  
found within local directory;

instructions for contacting the reference server for  
authentication, if the prefix of the bind DN is located  
15 on the reference server; and

instructions for denying the bind request if both  
the local directory and the reference server do not  
contain an entry corresponding to the bind DN.

20 4. The computer program product according to claim 3,  
wherein the defined reference server contains:

root DN's; and  
server location.

25 5. A system for authenticating LDAP referral searches,  
comprising:

means for receiving a bind request from a LDAP  
referred search request;

30 means for searching the local directory for an entry  
corresponding to the distinguished name (DN) of the bind  
request;

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means for authenticating the bind request if an entry for the bind DN is located within the local directory;

5 means for checking a defined reference server for the prefix of the bind DN, if the bind DN is not found within local directory;

means for contacting the reference server for authentication, if the prefix of the bind DN is located on the reference server; and

10 means for denying the bind request if both the local directory and the reference server do not contain an entry corresponding to the bind DN.

6. The system according to claim 5, wherein the defined  
15 reference server contains:

Root DN's; and  
server location.